



Insight

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Everyone should vote

Since the birth of our nation in 1776, American citizens have had the right to elect their leaders. As citizens, it is not only our right, but our duty to go to the polls this November and vote. As Soldiers and civilians who work for the Department of the Army, we protect this right every day. When compared to other nations, we are fortunate to live in a democratic society where all of our citizens have the right to vote for the candidate of their choosing and have an impact on how our government operates.

Unfortunately, the number of people who do vote is low compared to the country's voting population. In the 2000 presidential election, a little more than 105 million people out of an estimated 190 million eligible voters took the time to vote for the next commander in chief. That is roughly 55 percent of the voting population.

Many people may feel their votes will not make a difference, or they do not know who to vote for because they don't like any of the candidates. If another 85 million people had gone to the polls, their votes would have made a difference, but more importantly, they would have participated in an

activity that people of many less fortunate nations can only dream of experiencing.

In our country's infancy, white, male Protestant land-owners were the only citizens allowed to vote. Twenty-one years later in 1787, states were given the power to set voting mandates in the newly drafted U.S. Constitution. However, most were still favorable to white males who owned property. In 1830, many states dropped religion and property ownership as requirements to vote.

Thirty-eight years later, in 1868, the 14th Amendment recognized African-Americans as citizens, giving them the right to vote. Unfortunately, state officials tried to deny the amendment.

Two years later, the 15th Amendment guaranteed African-Americans the right to vote and prohibited state and local governments from denying that privilege.

In 1890, Wyoming set the standard for the rest of the country by recognizing women's right to vote in the state constitution. Four decades later, the 19th Amendment was added to the Constitution, giving women across the nation power to help



DA photo

elect our government.

Over the course of these 228 years, Soldiers have protected our right to vote while everyday citizens fought prejudice and discrimination to give every U.S. citizen, no matter their race or gender, the privilege of casting their ballot, to have a voice in their own lives and their government.

I encourage everyone within INSCOM to take the time in November to vote in the presidential, state and local elections. Battles have been fought and blood has been shed to guarantee this right.

Don't take voting for granted during this election, and honor those men and women who have given us this freedom.

New deputy commander arrives



photo by Tina Miles

Col. Michael Bisacre (left) departed the 902nd MI Group to become the INSCOM deputy commander July 1.

by Brian Murphy
INSCOM Public Affairs

Hectic. That's the only appropriate way to describe Col. Michael D. Bisacre's life since he became the new deputy commander of the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command.

Everything started when Col. Gregg Potter assumed command of the 902nd Military Intelligence Group from Bisacre at Fort Meade, Md. July 1. After taking the Fourth of July weekend to get settled in, Bisacre officially took over for Col. Clyde Harthcock as the new deputy commander. Since then, he has worked as hard as possible to adapt to

his newest role.

The biggest adjustment, according to Bisacre, will be seeing issues from a different perspective.

"The scope of the responsibility is much larger," he said. "I am in support of those major subordinate commands now on a daily basis, as opposed to be the supported. It's now my role to look and see how I can help each of those 14 major subordinate commands."

Additionally, the principal role of the deputy commander is to "be as involved as the commanding general in each of the major issues," Bisacre

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photo by Tina Miles

Bisacre's biggest adjustment as the new deputy commander will be seeing things from a different perspective.

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said.

"I must be aware of the command's primary actions in support of the war on terrorism and in support of our combat forces worldwide, and then to be able to shape that

"My initial goal is to become relevant to the command's decision-making process and to be able to help move the issues forward in a timely manner on behalf of the command,"

**Col. Michael Bisacre
deputy commander,
INSCOM**

information and prepare it for good decision making within the command," Bisacre said.

The deputy commander also provides guidance and direction on behalf of the commanding general.

"In his absence, I must take his intent and be able to apply it to the task at hand, so we can continue to move forward," Bisacre said. "This position involves a lot of long-range planning and being able to identify where the next issues are that need to be worked."

But one of the biggest challenges will be handling those issues that aren't accounted for.

"Finally, I must take on

those unexpected things that come up on a daily basis," he said.

"Every day, there is something that comes from either within the command or externally that wasn't planned for the day before," Bisacre said. "It's important that the deputy commander gets engaged in that quickly, finds out the facts so I can advise the commanding general and the rest of the staff to deal with whatever the situation is."

"My initial goal is to become relevant to the command's decision-making process and to be able to help move the issues forward in a timely manner on behalf of the command," he said.



photo by Brian Murphy

Command Sgt. Maj. Maureen Johnson, INSCOM's command sergeant major, inspects the uniform of Pfc. Adam Jones, of the 116th MI Group, during the INSCOM Soldier of the Year competition July 19-23.

INSCOM honors 'best of the best'

by Brian Murphy
INSCOM Public Affairs

The search for the best the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command has to offer has finally concluded.

After months of company, group and brigade level competitions, the top non-commissioned officer, Soldier and linguist of INSCOM were named during a ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Va., July 23.

Sgt. Samuel Cowell, of the 501st MI Brigade, earned the distinct honor of NCO of the Year. Spc. Jennifer Damp, of the 704th MI Brigade was named Soldier of the Year and Sgt. Benjamin Bowman, of the 115th MI Group, beat out

all challengers in becoming the Linguist of the Year.

Before each of these Soldiers took home top honors at the major command level, they each had to earn the right to compete. That meant hours upon hours of studying board questions, keeping up on physical fitness and honing their soldiering skills.

"This all started for me back in January," said Cowell. "That's when I went to my first board. From there I've just kept going to each board working my way to here."

From the moment the hopefuls arrived at Fort Belvoir, they were faced with

many challenges. The first day started out bright and early with a PT test. As soon as all of the Soldiers completed that, they got changed and headed out to A.P. Hill for weapons qualification on the M16A2 rifle. From there, they went to Common Task Testing, where they had to properly evaluate a casualty, react to a chemical attack and perform numerous other tasks.

Day two wasn't any easier. All of the Soldiers had to conduct day and night land navigation. Then, they were given a 50-question exam and a one-hour essay by Com-

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photos by Brian Murphy

Sgt. Samuel Cowell was named the NCO of the Year.



Spc. Jennifer Damp was named Soldier of the Year.

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mand Sgt. Maj. Maureen Johnson, INSCOM's command sergeant major.

The third day the Soldiers were in their Class A uniform as they faced a barrage of questions from four of INSCOM's finest sergeants major as they appeared before the final board.

"Every Soldier should be a part of this," Cowell said. "Win or lose we all walk away better people and better Soldiers. Making sure you're 'squared away' in front of all of these senior noncommissioned officers makes you a more confident and better person in the long run."

Cowell estimates that during his three-and-a-half-year career, he's been to at least 25 boards. When asked why he has put himself through so much, Cowell didn't hesitate to answer.

"I want to set a good example for the younger Soldiers," he said. "Being the INSCOM NCO of the Year is definitely a goal I set for myself. I want to win. I want to be an ambassador for my unit."

Because the task can be so daunting, each Soldier has a sponsor to act as a support channel throughout the process.

"We're like the backstage crew," said Sgt. 1st Class Homer Minnick III, who was the sponsor for Sgt. Tanesha Gardner of the 704th MI Brigade. "Being a sponsor you do everything you can to help them prepare. Whether it's studying or going out and helping them with land navigation or just taking care of the administrative areas, you try and get them ready. Motivating them is another big area for sponsors. The Soldier shouldn't have to worry about anything else."

With their sponsors taking care of all of the distractions, the competitors were given the opportunity to shine.

"These individuals have been judged to be the best and the brightest of the best and the brightest," said Maj. Gen. John F. Kimmons, commanding general, INSCOM, during the awards ceremony. "Today is a great day for the Army, and a great day for INSCOM. These Soldiers are just a small sample of the true talent we have within this command. We're very proud of each of the participants."

Army leadership casts vote

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- "It's your future -- vote for it."

This is the message from the Army's top leaders as they take starring roles in public service announcements to encourage Soldiers to fill out absentee voter registration forms by Aug. 15.

Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston took time Tuesday to tape television ads for the Army's Voting Assistance Program that will air on the Pentagon Channel, American Forces networks overseas and local command channels beginning the week of Aug. 9. Gen. Peter Schoomaker, chief of staff of the Army, is scheduled to tape a third PSA.

The Aug. 15 deadline to request an absentee ballot enables Soldiers deployed overseas to receive their ballots in September and have them sent out by Oct. 11 to reach their home states by election day, Nov. 2, said Jim Davis, the Army's voting assistance officer.

Preston knows first-hand the importance of registering for absentee voting.

"I've been a Soldier for almost 30 years and have never had the chance to vote in my home state of Maryland," he said.

The Army wants to make sure all Soldiers are provided with the opportunity to register and cast their ballot. In May an e-mail was sent to 1.3 million AKO users, reminding them of the importance of this and the details of how to do so, said Davis.

To apply for an absentee ballot, Soldiers must fill out the federal postcard application, standard form 76, which can be found at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Web site or from a voting action officer, said Davis.

If Soldiers located outside the United States send in their request for an absentee ballot in sufficient time and don't receive their ballot, they can use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (SF 186), which allows them to write in their votes and send it in by



the Oct. 11 deadline.

All but three states require absentee ballots by close of business the day of the election. Louisiana requires the ballots to be in by midnight before the election. New York absentee ballots need to be postmarked the day before the election. North Carolina requires the ballots to be in by 5 p.m. the day before the election.

Brownlee recognizes the roles Soldiers play in the voting process.

"As a Soldier you have a duty to fight. As a citizen, you have the right to vote. Now it's time for you to exercise that right," he said.

Time to make a difference

Maj. Gen. John F. Kimmons, commanding general, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, encourages all Soldiers, civilians and contractors to participate in the democratic process by voting.

Those individuals wishing to vote need to ensure they have registered prior to local deadlines. For example, the Constitution of Virginia requires individuals be registered in the precinct in which they live by Oct. 4 in order to be qualified to vote Nov. 2.

The military offers a Voting Assistance Guide to help individuals understand procedures for registering and voting in their state or territory of legal voting residence.

For more information on federal voting policies, go to the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Web site at: <http://www.fvap.gov/>

Godfather of INSCOM retires

by J.P. Barham
INSCOM Public Affairs

After 50 years of federal service, "the Godfather" of the U.S. Army Intelligence Command is heading home.

Evan Triandafilou, director of Target Exploitation, counter intelligence/human intelligence operations, retired during a ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Va., August 3.

Triandafilou, a 76-year-old Portland, Maine native, began his career with INSCOM in 1957, and accepted a position at Arlington Hall, Va., as part of the former Army Security Agency (ASA).

In 1961, Triandafilou married his wife Denise. The couple then departed the U.S. for an assignment at Fort Drake, Japan. The couple's first child was even born in Japan. The family remained overseas, with a follow-on assignment at ASA Europe, in Frankfurt Germany.

Returning to Arlington Hall in 1961, Triandafilou worked in Counter intelligence and became the director of TAREX program in 1976. He continued in that position for the next 27 years.

"Evan's work has been something to be very proud of," said Col. Michael Bisacre, deputy commander, INSCOM. "During his time at INSCOM, he developed an extensive technical library - the premiere library for the intelligence field."

Additionally, Evan was the first non-NSA employee to



photo by Bob Bills

Friends and family members congratulate Triandafilou after his retirement ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Va., August 3.

receive the National Security Agency meritorious Civilian Service Award.

Triandafilou said what makes him most proud is the intelligence support that he and his team provided to Soldiers during wartime.

Addressing his colleagues and members of his large family (seven children and 21 grandchildren), Triandafilou reflected on his 47 years at INSCOM.

"I thought you and I agreed to tell the commanding general that I'm too young to retire," said Triandafilou, as Bisacre and crowd laughed.

As the oldest employee at INSCOM, Triandafilou was always called upon to cut the Army cake during Army Birth-

day celebrations. "I expect to be called back next year to cut the cake," he said.

According to Triandafilou, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Robert W. Noonan, Jr., a former INSCOM commander, anointed him the "Godfather" of the TAREX program, a name that has stuck since 1998.

Triandafilou said he stayed at INSCOM for so many years, because of the wonderful people he worked with and the incredible gratification he received from his job.

"My dad instilled many values in me," he said. "Commitment, faith, respect for your elders, truthfulness, and hard work are values I hope my wife and I have passed on to our family."